

NEW MEXICO TO GET \$9.6 MILLION TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will urge Congress to work in a bipartisan spirit to continue his plan to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher. He will also announce that the U.S. Department of Education is releasing new guidelines to help states and local school districts use the funds they will receive this summer to begin hiring well-qualified teachers to reduce class size in early grades. As the U.S. Senate considers the Education Flexibility Act, it is more important than ever that the Murray-Kennedy amendment to continue the President's class size reduction plan is passed as well.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; as a result students learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In 1998, President Clinton proposed to help local schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Last year, the President signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide. For the first year, \$1.2 billion was provided to help local communities hire 30,000 teachers. The funds will be available to school districts in July. Local school boards will be incorporating these funds into the budgets they are developing right now for the next school year. To give communities the certainty they need to effectively plan and phase in a seven-year reduction in class size, Congress must act now.

In July, New Mexico will receive \$9.6 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For New Mexico's largest school districts, that means:

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOO	\$2,212,367
LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOL	676,703
GALLUP-MCKINLEY COUNTY P	573,481
GADSDEN INDEPENDENT SCHO	515,430
ROSWELL INDEPENDENT SCHO	366,528
CENTRAL CONSOLIDATED SCH	319,445
SANTA FE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	292,756
CLOVIS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	254,252
HOBBS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	251,965
FARMINGTON MUNICIPAL SCH	224,548
ESPANOLA MUNICIPAL SCHOO	208,327
GRANTS-CIBOLA COUNTY SCH	193,906
CARLSBAD MUNICIPAL SCHOO	190,031
DEMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS	188,103
ALAMOGORDO PUBLIC SCHOOL	187,555
BELEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOO	187,174
LOS LUNAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	170,746
BERNALILLO PUBLIC SCHOOL	139,039
TAOS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS	122,684
PORTALES MUNICIPAL SCHOO	110,731

The guidelines and total estimated school district allocations are available on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/ClassSize/index.html>.